

Clean copy of amended claims

2. (thrice amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating has a non-uniform thickness.
7. (amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
10. (thrice amended) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the spacings of the coating islands are substantially the same within a given coating region.
11. (amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.
12. (amended) The stent as set forth in claim 17 wherein the coating comprises amorphous silicon carbide.
14. (amended) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating islands are all of substantially the same size.
19. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 12 wherein the amorphous silicon carbide is hydrogenated.
20. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating has a non-uniform thickness.
21. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 20 wherein the coating is completely missing in at least one location on the surface of the stent.
22. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 21 wherein the coating is interrupted in a patterned configuration.

23. (new) The stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating comprises biocompatible material.
24. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 18 wherein the coating comprises amorphous silicon carbide.
25. (new) A stent as set forth in claim 24 wherein the amorphous silicon carbide is hydrogenated.